GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3097
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004
TREATMENT OF AIDS PATIENTS
Adityanath Yogi Shri ;Appadurai Shri M.;Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar;Mahajan Shri Y.G.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the patients suffering from AIDS are not getting proper treatment in the hospitals;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to create special wards in hospitals for such patients;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to assist the States for setting up of exclusive hospitals for treatment of AIDS with proper HIV diagnostic kits;

(e) if so, whether any arrangements have been made to supply medicines to the poor AIDS diagnosed patients at free of cost;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether wrong administration of vaccine is causing untimely death of thousands of people from deadly diseases like Hepatitis B and AIDS every year;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) No Sir. The National AIDS Control Programme provides free treatment for opportunistic infections and sexually transmitted infections among people living with HIV/AIDS through all the government hospitals in the country. Additionally, 273 centres for Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission have been established in government medical colleges & district hospitals wherein free anti-retroviral medicine i.e. Nevirapine is provided to both HIV positive mother and new born infant. Recently, anti-retroviral treatment, free of cost, was introduced in 8 identified government hospitals located in six high prevalence states & NCT Delhi. This ARV treatment is being extended from 8 centres to 25 centres during the current financial year.

(b) & (c) To avoid stigma & discrimination against the patients affected with HIV/AIDS separate wards are not recommended as a part of National AIDS Control Programme policy. In fact it is recommended that the patients with HIV/AIDS should be admitted in general wards.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) & (f) The arrangement of free treatment as detailed in (a) above is provided in the government hospitals

(g) & (h) A vaccine for HIV is not yet available. Administration of vaccine for any ailment must be implemented with a sterile needle. There is no report to indicate that wrong administration of vaccine to people with AIDS is causing deaths.

(i) The health service providers are trained to follow universal precautions & they must use only the sterile needle & syringes.